Bible & Daily Living

Bridling the tongue

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
BRIDLING THE TONGUE
Lesson for May 13, 1984
Bible Study Passages: James 3:1-10, 13-18

INTRODUCTION

Our society tends to place a great deal more emphasis upon the ability to speak than upon listening. The ability to wax eloquently with words is a premium in our society. But the capacity to listen must be equal with the capacity to speak. After all, God gave us two ears and only one mouth, which seems to imply that we should listen twice as much as we speak.

Words are powerful. They can invoke feelings of love and hatred, warmth and coldness, courage and discouragement. Words may be useful as tools to express ideas and to convey the truth. In other instances words may be used as weapons to injure another person's feelings or character. One falsehood about a person can destroy years of friendship.

Christians must take great care in what they say. Words may redeem or condemn. We can say many things out of love and care and help some people, but words spoken unthinkingly can injure a person's sense of self-worth. This week's lesson looks at the power of the spoken word.

HOLDING THE TONGUE *[James 3:1-5]

There is a saying well worth remembering, "Know your stuff. Know whom you are stuffing. Stuff them eloquently." James warned those who taught not to force their eloquent words upon unwilling listeners. Some people enjoy the sound of their own voices. Some who teach and preach overwhelm their listeners with wordiness.

Whether we teach or preach we should keep from misleading people. To illustrate his point, James used three metaphors to describe the importance of controlling the tongue. A horse is guided by a bit, a ship by its rudder, and a spark can set ablaze a forest. All three illustrations describe the power of the tongue.

MISUSING THE TONGUE [James 3:6-10]

James argues that the tongue can affect our entire being because it is an "unrighteous member" of our bodies. Thus the tongue can pollute our entire being as well as our surroundings. James goes onto describe the tongue's double nature, that is, it is capable of blessing and cursing the Lord and other people.

James argues that you can tell a great deal about a person by the way they talk. What a person says reflects their maturity level. Very often some people use their words to conceal who they are rather than reveal who they are. The measure of speech is how redemptive our words are.

PROPER USE OF THE TONGUE [James 3:13-18]

Over-zealous people sometimes abuse their knowledge and position to create division among others. We see this happen within the church when some try to parade their superiority and superior wisdom while despising those who do not share their views. Such behavior only creates strife among the body of Christ.

The best wisdom, according to James, is that which come from above. The wisdom that comes from God creates harmony and tranquility among the body of Christ. Such wisdom is not self-serving but seeks to serve others.

Members may ponder the following questions:

1. What are Christians to do with angry feeling towards another?
2. Is it unfair for Christians to judge others?
3. How does a Christian respond to gossip?

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Coming Events

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Sunday, May 13 the Rev. Louis Watson and the Peaceful Grove Community Chorus will be in service at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Concord at 5 p.m.

Concert planned

SUNDAY, MAY 13

The Echoes of Glory Singers will be in concert at the Springfield Baptist Church Sunday May 13 at 3 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited.

NAACP to meet

MONDAY, MAY 14

The Appomattox Chapter of the NAACP will meet at the Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Hixburg, on Monday night, May 14 at 7:30.

Times-Virginian

WORSHIP

Mt. Airy Church news

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God. Psalm 146:5

The Faithful Five singers of Red House will be singing at Mt. Airy Sunday, Mother's Day, at 3 p.m. for the benefit of the choir.

On the fourth Saturday night in May at 6 the Deacon's Board will celebrate their anniversary.

On the fourth Sunday in this month at 3 p.m. the Faithful Five will celebrate their first anniversary here. Many of your favorite groups will be on the program. Come out and enjoy yourself.

Sunday schools meet

By ODELL CHAMBERS

Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

The East and West Sunday School Union was held at Mt. Airy Baptist Church Sunday. Mrs. Gertrude Wesley, Odell Chambers and Deacon Robert Thornton, Jr., attended as delegates from Mt. Pleasant. Others attending from Mt. Pleasant were Mrs. Marva Thornton and her daughter, Tyreais Chambers, and Kesha Wesley.

Jordan Baptist Church will host the next meeting of the union.

Our sympathies go out to the Kelso and Turner families in the loss of their loved one, Mrs. Cassie Kelso.

The deacons and trustees celebrated their second anniversary on the fifth Sunday in April. The Rev. James Miller was their guest. The Sunshine Choir furnished music.

Pastor Napier led services at Mt. Pleasant Sunday. The Rev. Edwards was by his side, and the junior choir provided music.

The Pastor's Aid Club will meet at the church Saturday at 2:30.

The Ladies Aid Club will celebrate their anniversary Sunday at 5 p.m. Sister Ella Hawks will be special guest, and she will be accompanied by the Gospel Chorus.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Shaw of North Carolina visited her mother, Mrs. Odell Chambers this weekend. They returned home Sunday.

The Sunshine Choir had a nice program Sunday. Our hats go off to Mrs. Rosa Edward and Mrs. Gertrude Wesley.

We are praying for the sick and shut in everywhere.

Galilee Church news notes

Keep my commandments, and live: and my law as the apple of thine eye. Proverbs 7:2

Regular worship services were held at Galilee this past Sunday. Pastor Davis delivered an inspiring message and the senior choir under the direction of Mr. Atkinson, rendered beautiful selections.

On that afternoon, the ladies of Galilee celebrated their anniversary at 3 p.m. The Rev. Watson from the Peaks Baptist Church was special guest. A large crowd attended the services. Both services were held in the church fellowship hall due to renovation of the main sanctuary.

The men's club will celebrate their anniversary on the third Sunday in this month at 3 p.m. The Rev. Terry and congregation from Free Spring Baptist Church will be guests.

Beginning the Monday night after the third Sunday, Spring Revival will begin at Galilee. We will have a guest speaker and guest choir each night. Come let us worship and be revived.

Deacon and Mrs. Leon Lawing attended appreciation services for Mrs. Margaret Lawing Collier in Blackstone, Va. recently. Mrs. Collier has served as church organist for 60 years.

Mrs. Louise Watson, who is improving, would like to thank each person individually for flowers, cards, and money and especially prayers during her recent illness. May God continue to smile on you.

Let us continue in prayer for the sick, shut-in and bereaved. Have a pleasant, week and put Jesus first in your life.

Love to all from Galilee.

Revival services set for Mt. Comfort

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church plans Revival Services for the week of May 20-25, beginning on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and continuing each evening at 8 p.m. through Friday evening. On Sunday a picnic dinner will follow the worship hour.

The series of services is keeping with the Methodist bicentennial theme "Two Centuries of Proclaiming the Gospel" will have former pastors and a local pastor speaking each evening and for the morning service.

The Rev. James Becker, of Covenant Memorial United Methodist Church in Chesapeake will speak on Sunday morning on "In The Beginning".

The Fellowship Four and Jackie will present a musical program at 10 a.m. Sunday morning preceding the worship hour.

The Rev. Aaron Smith from Memorial United Methodist Church at Virginia Beach will use as his subject on Sunday evening, "Proclaiming".

The Rev. Floyd Wingfield, Sr., retired former pastor of Thaxton will speak on Monday evening using as his subject "Repentence".

The Rev. David Beale of Red Oak Baptist Church will bring the message on Tuesday evening on "The Faith That Unites Us."

The Rev. William Ayers, pastor of Glovier Memorial United Methodist Church will speak Wednesday evening on "Dedication".

The Rev. Thomas Jackson of Marquis Memorial United Methodist Church will use as his subject on Thursday evening, "Redemption".

On Friday evening, the Rev. David Camden, present pastor of the church will conclude the services speaking on "Commitment".

Come and worship with us.

Mrs. Carrie Strasburg of Richmond was buried on Monday. Among those attending the funeral were Mrs. Herbert Richardson, Mrs. Otho Martin, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Clark Lewis, and Lathan Harvey.

St. Luke Church news

The Rev. R.R. Jones delivered inspirational sermons at St. Luke Baptist Church diring the month of April. The church's Senior Choir provided music during April's worship services.

The Young Adult Choir celebrated their first anniversary April 15.

The Rev. J.E. McLaughlin and his choir were special guests at St. Luke Easter Sunday at 4 p.m. A former pastor at St. Luke, the Rev. McLaughlin is currently living in Danville.

The Cornerstone Baptist Sunday School Union met for the second time this year April 29 at Zion Baptist Church.

On April 29 also, the young adult group at Hat Creek Baptist Church gave a program for Senior Citizens' Day. Mrs. Louise Canada and many other senior citizens from St. Luke attended. The Rev. Charles Dunning and his youth choir were special guests for this event.

The Baptist Cornerstone Convention will meet for a day-long session at St. Luke May 29 at 7:30 p.m. The session will include a sing-along, and members of all church schools are asked to attend.

Mr. Bryant Junior Nowlin and Miss Wendy Mitchell were united in marriage April 29. A beautiful, well-attended reception followed in Brookneal.

Mrs. Esther Bradley has returned to her home after spending some time in Richmond with her sister, who is ill there.

We continue to pray for the sick and shut-in everywhere.

Martin, Harvey visit Methodist conference

Miss Bertie Harvey and Mrs. Otho Martin, Jr. along with others from the Lynchburg District, traveled to Baltimore, Md. on Sunday to attend the Bicentennial Methodist General Conference.

The special program on Sunday commemorated the first conference held at the Lovely Lane Methodist Church in Baltimore.

REVIVAL SERVICES
EVERGREEN
BAPTIST CHURCH
The Rev. Edmond M. Terry, Pastor
May 16 - May 20
7:30 each evening
The Rev. Randy Bridges, Guest Minister
(Pastor Bethel Baptist Church, Appomattox Association)
NURSERY PROVIDED
Special Music Each Evening
The Public Is Invited To Attend

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Pastor Scott Dean - Meeting in Old Reynolds Store Building
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Morning Worship 11 A.M.
Sunday Night Service 7 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Service - 7:30 P.M.
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Registration Fee: $20.00
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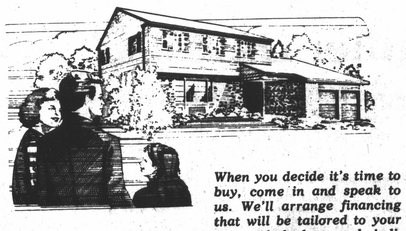
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COTTONELLE BATHROOM TISSUE 4 ROLL PKG. 99¢
CALIFORNIA Iceberg LETTUCE 2 HDS. $1.00
YELLOW SQUASH LB. 39¢
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BANQUET FRIED CHICKEN 2 LB. PKG. $2.39
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